

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A contents management apparatus in a computer  
for managing the number of times contents are  
transferred between the computer and a recording and  
5 reproduction device, the contents management apparatus  
comprising:

management screen display means for displaying on  
a display section of the computer a library management  
screen of contents and a device management screen for  
10 managing contents of a device; and

contents management means for displaying the  
contents-transferable number of times, which is  
predetermined for each content, on the library  
management screen, and for displaying a number obtained  
15 by subtracting a predetermined number from the  
contents-transferable number of times every check-out  
when contents are transferred from the library  
management screen to the device management screen, and  
displaying a number obtained by adding a predetermined  
20 number to the contents-transferable number of times  
every check-in when the contents transferred to the  
device management screen are returned to the library  
management screen.

2. The contents management apparatus according to  
25 claim 1, wherein the contents management means includes  
a check-out list for managing a device whose contents  
are checked out.

3. The contents management apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the contents management means adds a contents-transferred device to the check-out list every check-out of each content, and deletes a contents-transferring device from the check-out list every check-in of each content.

4. The contents management apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the check-out list includes a flag indicating whether a check-out is allowed for each content, and the apparatus further comprises inhibit means for inhibiting a check-out of contents when the flag indicates that the check-out is not allowed.

5. A contents management apparatus in a computer for managing the number of times contents are transferred between the computer and a plurality of recording and reproduction devices, the contents management apparatus comprising:

management screen display means for displaying on a display section of the computer a library management screen for managing transfer of contents between the computer and each of the devices; and

contents screen selection means for selecting a tag corresponding to each of the devices on the library management screen and displaying a device management screen for managing the device of the selected tag to the forefront.

6. The contents management apparatus according to

claim 5, further comprising contents management means  
for displaying the contents-transferable number of  
times, which is predetermined for each content, on the  
library management screen, and for displaying a number  
5 obtained by subtracting a predetermined number from the  
contents-transferable number of times every check-out  
when contents are transferred from the library  
management screen to the device management screen, and  
displaying a number obtained by adding a predetermined  
10 number to the contents-transferable number of times  
every check-in when the contents transferred to the  
device management screen are returned to the library  
management screen.

7. The contents management apparatus according to  
15 claim 6, wherein the contents management means includes  
a check-out list for managing a device whose contents  
are checked out.

8. The contents management apparatus according to  
claim 7, wherein the contents management means adds a  
20 contents-transferred device to the check-out list every  
check-out of each content, and deletes a contents-  
transferring device from the check-out list every  
check-in of each content.

9. The contents management apparatus according to  
25 claim 7, wherein the check-out list includes a flag  
indicating whether a check-out is allowed for each  
content, and the apparatus further comprises inhibit

means for inhibiting a check-out of contents when the flag indicates that the check-out is not allowed.

10. A contents management apparatus in a computer for managing the number of times contents are transferred between the computer and a recording and reproduction device, the contents management apparatus comprising display means for displaying on a display section of the computer a library management screen of contents and a device management screen for managing contents of a device,

wherein the library management screen serves to display the number of times contents are transferable.

11. A contents management method in a computer for managing the number of times contents are transferred between the computer and a recording and reproduction device, the contents management method comprising the steps of:

displaying on a display section of the computer a library management screen of contents and a device management screen for managing contents of a device, and displaying the contents-transferable number of times, which is predetermined for each content, on the library management screen; and

displaying a number obtained by subtracting a predetermined number from the contents-transferable number of times every check-out when contents are transferred from the library management screen to the

